

CFexpress card firmware update tool for macOS



Angelbird CFexpress Type A memory cards
Angelbird CFexpress Type B memory cards
RED CFexpress Type B memory cards
SSD2GO PKT MK3

User manual
18th June 2025

M A N

U A L

ANGELBIRD

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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to the manual for the Angelbird CFexpress card firmware update tool for macOS. The tool is mostly self-explanatory, so just start the app, and follow the on-screen instructions.

This manual is for tool version 1.6.1 and later.

macOS system security requires that all drivers are first approved by you, the user. What is needed to make this happen is explained below.

- [Click here](#) for instructions for macOS Sonoma and Sequoia.
- [Click here](#) for instructions for macOS Ventura.
- [Click here](#) for instructions for macOS Big Sur and Monterey.

If you need additional support please contact angelbird.com/support

LEGAL INFORMATION

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Sonoma and Sequoia instructions

The firmware tool guides you through the steps required to check for and install firmware updates for your Angelbird media. The supported types of media are listed on page 1.

Warning

Installing the firmware update will destroy all data on the drive. Please ensure that you have securely backed up your files.

THE PROCESS IS AS FOLLOWS

Ensure the card reader or SSD2GO is disconnected from the computer.

Start the app and let it load the update driver.

Set the computer security policy to allow driver installation (only on Macs with Apple Silicon).

Approve the update driver.

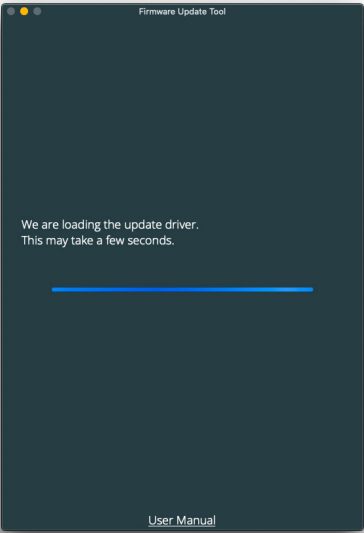
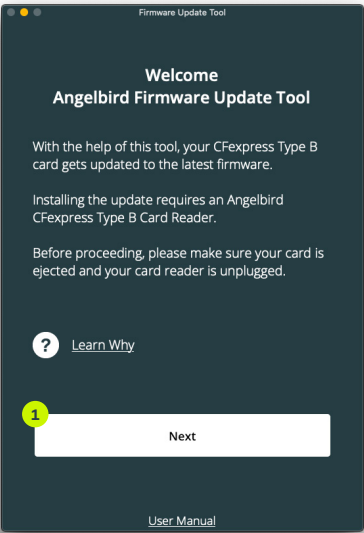
Plug in the Angelbird or RED CFexpress card reader with the CFexpress card inside, or the SSD2GO.

Update the firmware.

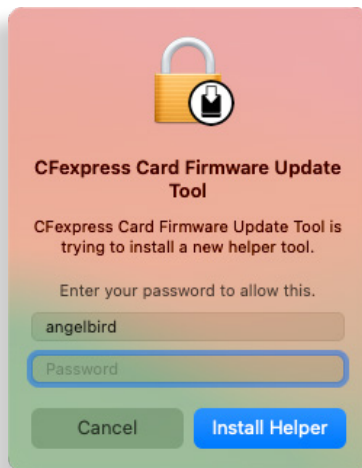
- 1 Open the app and click **1** “Next”. The app will try to install a helper app and load the update driver.

Note:

The helper app and update driver will be automatically uninstalled once the tool closes.

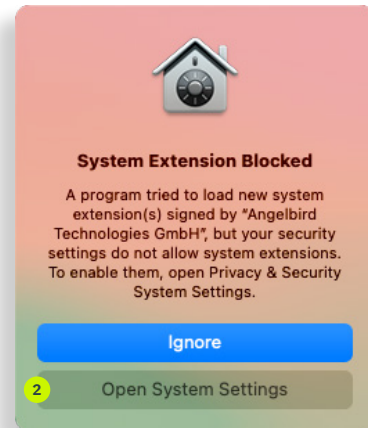
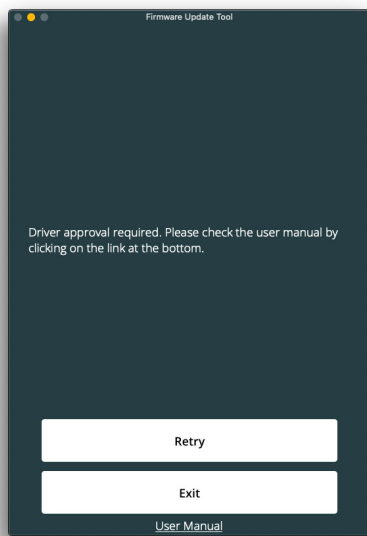


- 2 The entire process requires authentication several times. Enter your computer user name and password when, and if, prompted.



- 3 If the app says that driver approval is required, you may get a popup about a system extension being "blocked" or being "updated". Or maybe you get no popup at all... This depends on the security settings of your system.

If you get a popup, open the 2 system settings. If you get no popup, open the system settings app, then select privacy & security.



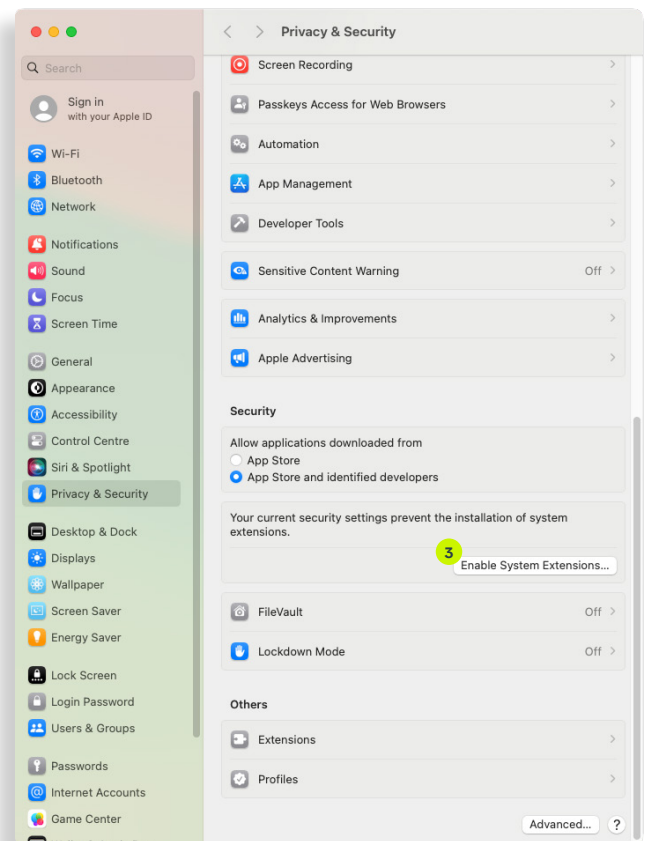
- 4 This step is only needed for Macs with Apple Silicon. For the app to work, it is required that your system allows the installation of system extensions.

For more details, see the Apple support page: [click here](#)

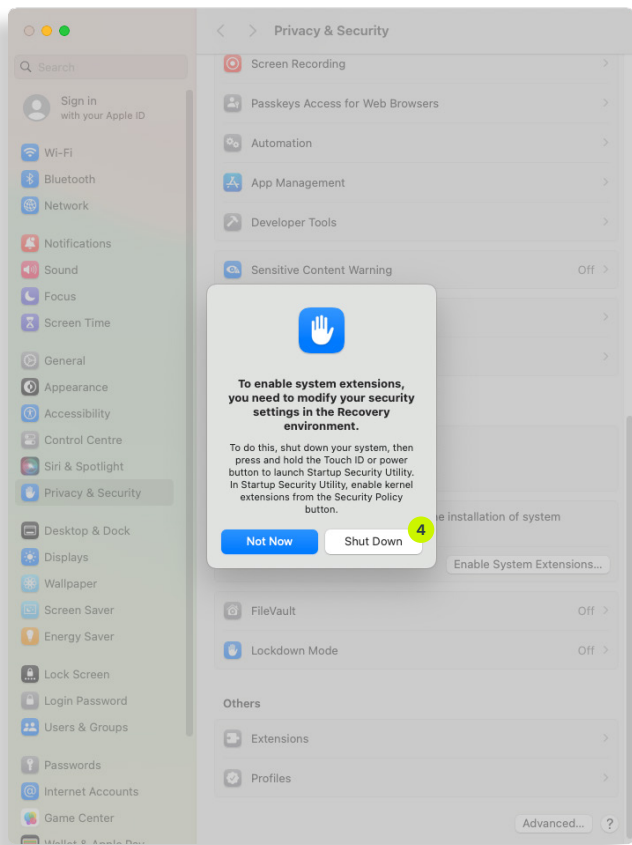
- 4.1 In the security preferences, click the unlock icon, and then click 3 "Enable System Extensions..."

Note:

Is the display text different? Then system extensions are already enabled. In this case, continue with step 5.



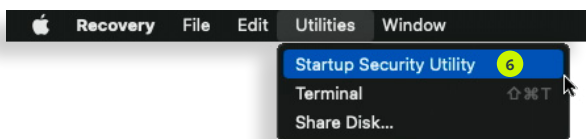
4.2 The system will ask you to shut down in order to change the security settings in the recovery environment. Click **4** "Shut Down".



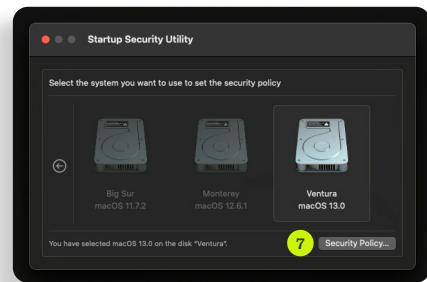
4.3 Reboot your Mac with Apple Silicon in recovery mode by clicking "Shut Down..." via the Apple menu. Once the Mac has shut down, keep the power button pressed until the Mac loads the startup menu. Select **5** "Options" and click "Continue".



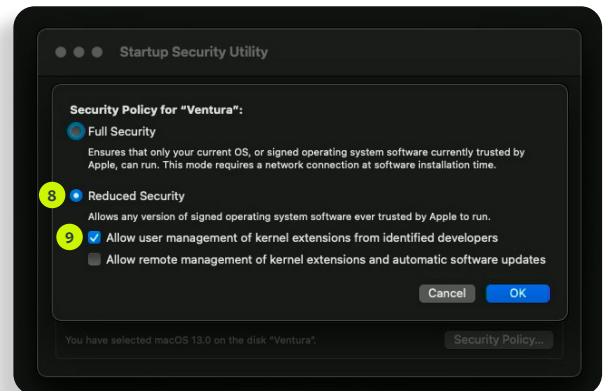
4.4 Open the **6** "Startup Security Utility" from the utilities menu.



4.5 Select the macOS Version for which you are performing the installation, and click **7** "Security Policy..." to continue.



4.6 Set the security level to **8** "Reduced Security" and **9** allow the user management and loading of third-party texts.

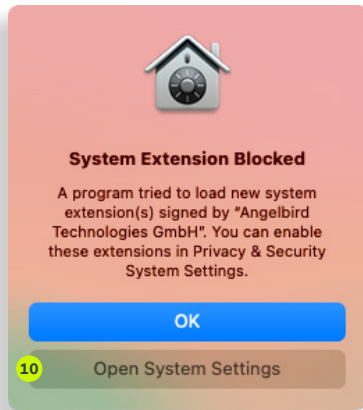


4.7 Exit recovery mode by rebooting the computer back to macOS. Restart your computer via the apple menu.



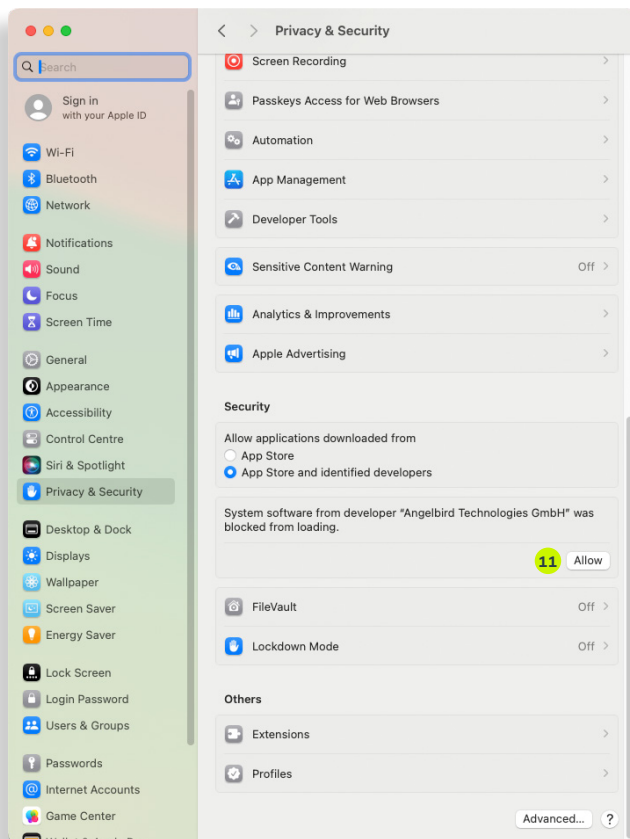
- 5 Now that the security settings have been updated, start the app again. The app will again check if the drivers were approved. This time the drivers need to be approved.

A "System Extension Blocked" popup should appear. Click the button to 10 "Open System Settings". If no popup appears, open the system preferences app, and then open the privacy & security preferences.

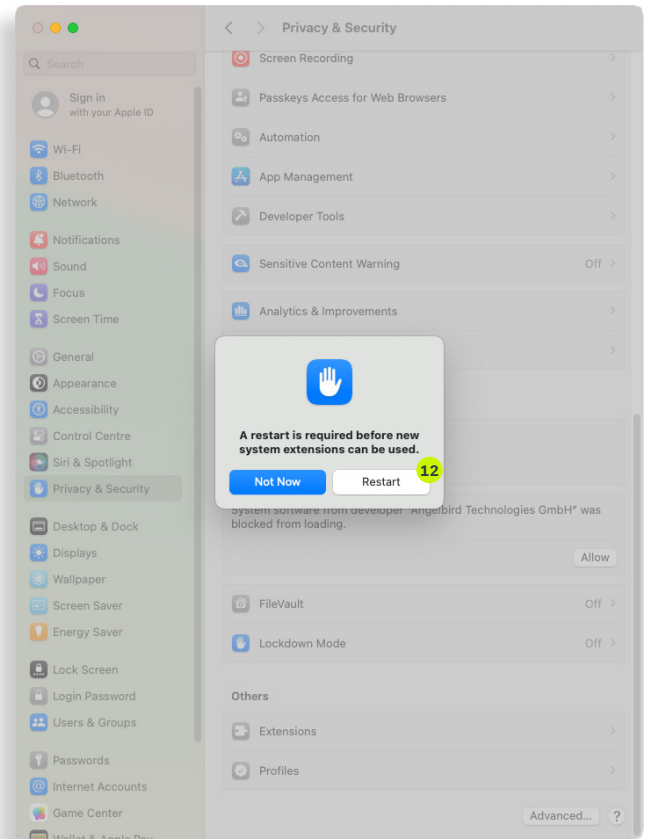


- 6 In the privacy & security preferences, make sure the developer is "Angelbird Technologies GmbH". Click 11 "Allow", and enter your password as needed.

It may also show a more generic message that reads "some system software was blocked from loading". In this case, after clicking allow, a list will appear and software from each developer can be allowed individually.



- 7 The system will need to be restarted again, so click 12 "Restart".

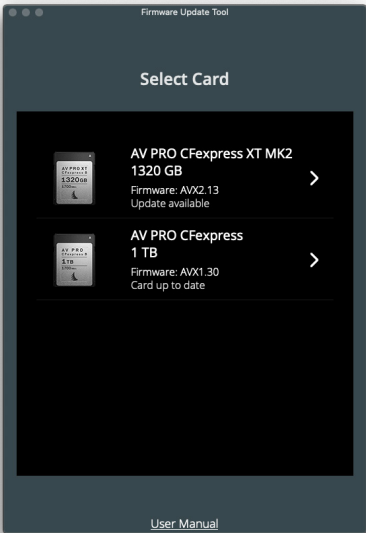
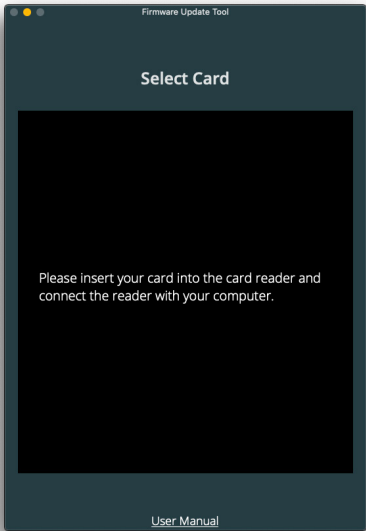


- 8 Once the system has restarted, start the app again and follow the on-screen instructions. Now the app should tell you to plug in the card reader and card.

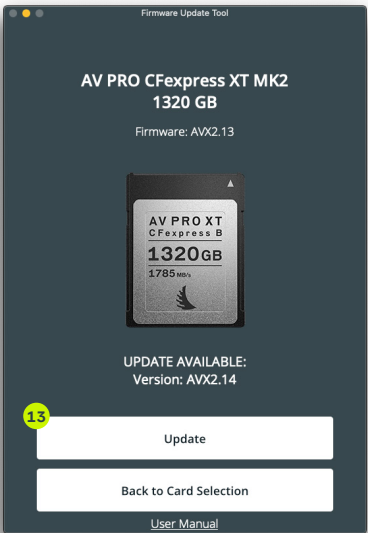
Plug in the CFexpress card reader with the CFexpress card already inserted into the computer.

Once a CFexpress card is detected, the tool shows if an update is possible. To continue, select the card you want to update.

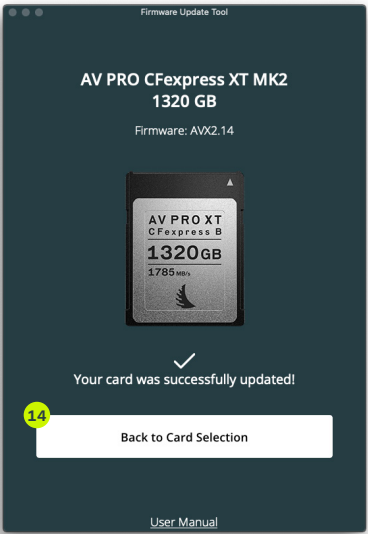
Note:
When the tool has detected a card, simply follow the on-screen instructions to complete the firmware update.
While the firmware is being updated, the card will be unsafely ejected.



- 9 Click 13 "Update" to proceed with the firmware update.



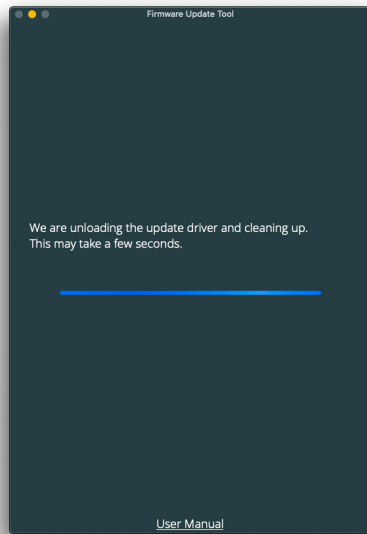
- 10 If the update was successful, you see the screen as below. Click 14 "Back to Card Selection" to go back to the list of cards.



- 11** Close the app after your card was updated. Now the firmware update driver and helper tool are uninstalled. The firmware update tool will close automatically.

Note:

While unloading the driver, the connected card will be unsafely ejected.

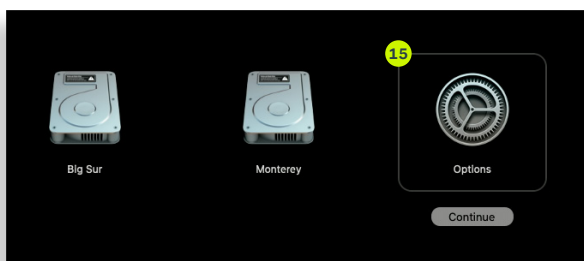


- 12** The Security settings can now be reset to their previous values. This step is only needed for Macs with Apple Silicon.

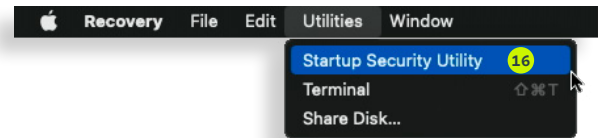
When you have any other system extension installed which requires more permissive security settings, you should skip restoring the security settings as otherwise they will stop working.

For more details, see the Apple support page: [click here](#)

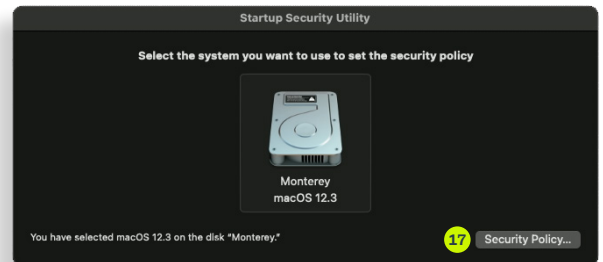
- 12.1** First shut down your computer. Once turned off, press and keep pressed the power button until the boot menu is loaded.
- 12.2** In the boot menu, click **15** "Options" to load the recoveryOS.



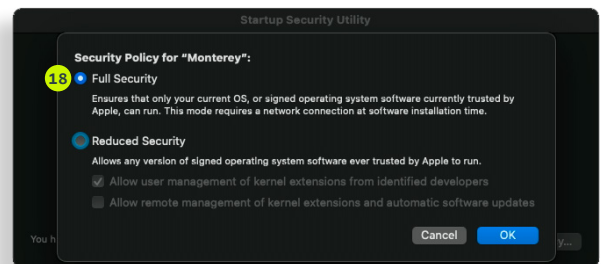
- 12.3** Once the recoveryOS has loaded, open the **16** "Startup Security Utility" from the utilities menu.



- 12.4** Next, select the startup disk you wish to update and click **17** "Security Policy...". Most likely, there is only one option.



- 12.5** Change the setting to **18** "Full Security" and click "OK".



- 12.6** Restart the computer to macOS using the Apple menu.



Ventura instructions

The firmware tool guides you through the steps required to check for and install firmware updates for your Angelbird media. The supported types of media are listed on page 1.

Warning

Installing the firmware update will destroy all data on the drive. Please ensure that you have securely backed up your files.

THE PROCESS IS AS FOLLOWS

Ensure the card reader or SSD2GO is disconnected from the computer.

Start the app and let it load the update driver.

Set the computer security policy to allow driver installation (only on Macs with Apple Silicon).

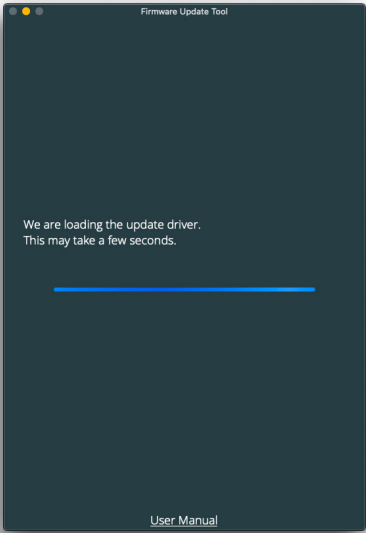
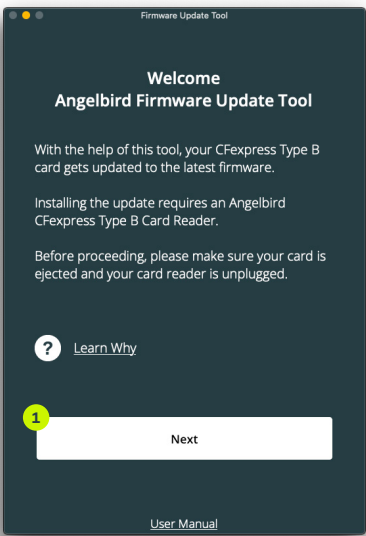
Approve the update driver.

Plug in the Angelbird or RED CFexpress card reader with the CFexpress card inside, or the SSD2GO.

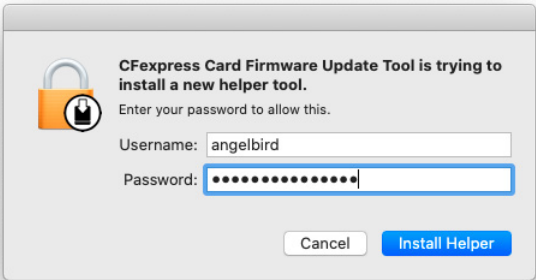
Update the firmware.

- 1 Open the app and click **1** “Next”. The app will try to install a helper app and load the update driver.

Note:
The helper app and update driver will be automatically uninstalled once the tool closes.

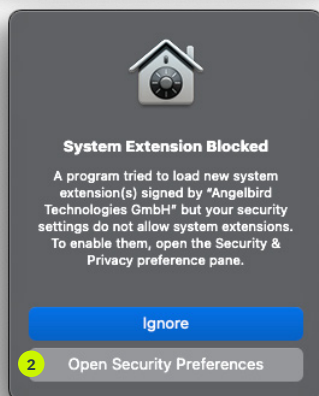
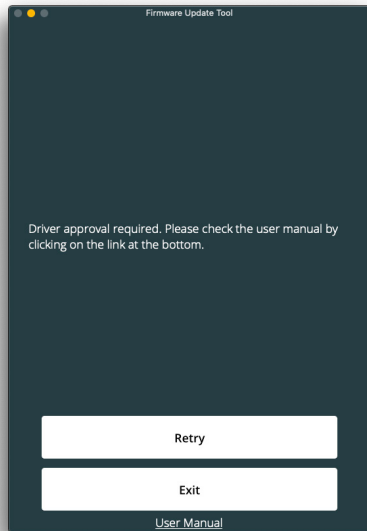


- 2 The entire process requires authentication several times. Enter your computer user name and password when, and if, prompted.



- 3 If the app says that driver approval is required, you may get a popup about a system extension being "blocked" or being "updated". Or maybe you get no popup at all... This depends on the security settings of your system.

If you get a popup, open the 2 security settings.
If you get no popup, open the system settings app, then select privacy & security.



- 4 This step is only needed for macs with Apple Silicon. For the app to work, it is required that your system allows the installation of system extensions.

For more details, see the Apple support page: [click here](#)

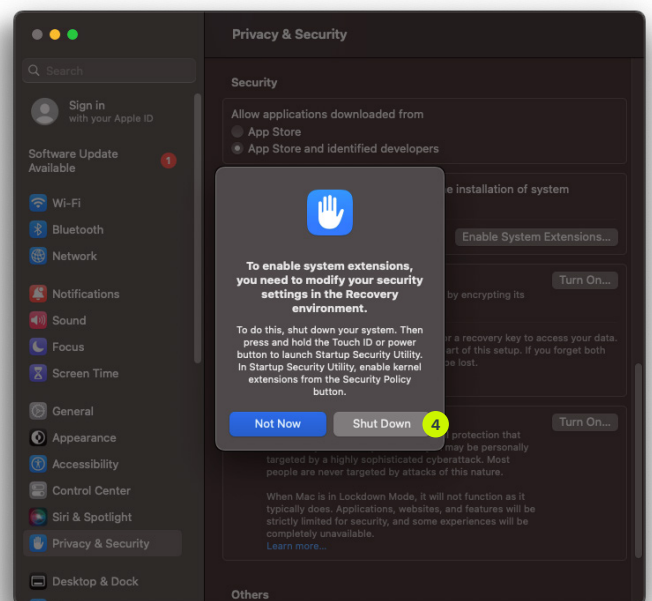
- 4.1 In the security preferences, click the unlock icon, and then click 3 "Enable System Extensions..."

Note:

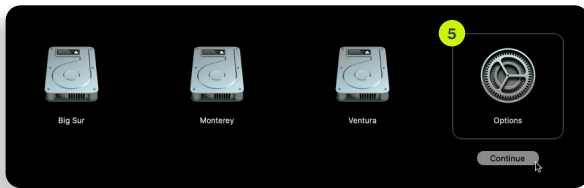
Is the display text different? Then system extensions are already enabled. In this case, continue with step 5.



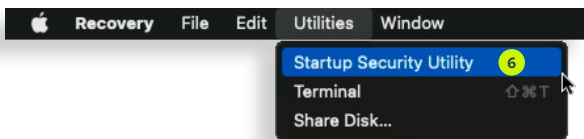
- 4.2 The system will ask you to shut down in order to change the security settings in the recovery environment. Click 4 "Shut Down".



- 4.3 Reboot your Mac with Apple Silicon in recovery mode by clicking “Shut Down...” via the Apple menu. Once the Mac has shut down, keep the power button pressed until the Mac loads the startup menu. Select 5 “Options” and click “Continue”.



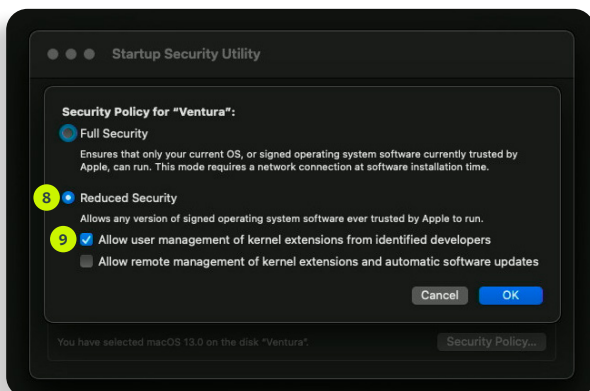
- 4.4 Open the 6 “Startup Security Utility” from the utilities menu.



- 4.5 Select the macOS version for which you are performing the installation, and click 7 “Security Policy...” to continue.



- 4.6 Set the security level to 8 “Reduced Security” and 9 allow the user management and loading of third-party texts.

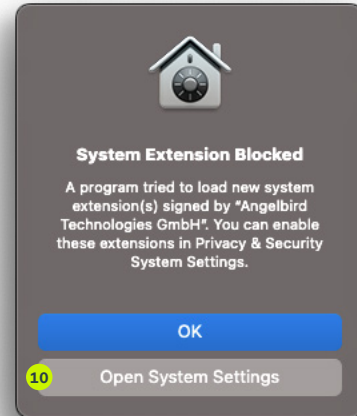


- 4.7 Exit recovery mode by rebooting the computer back to macOS. Restart your computer via the apple menu.



- 5 Now that the security settings have been updated, start the app again. The app will again check if the drivers were approved. This time the drivers need to be approved.

A “System Extension Blocked” popup should appear. Click the button for 10 “Open System Settings”. If no popup appears, open the system preferences app, and then open the privacy & security preferences.

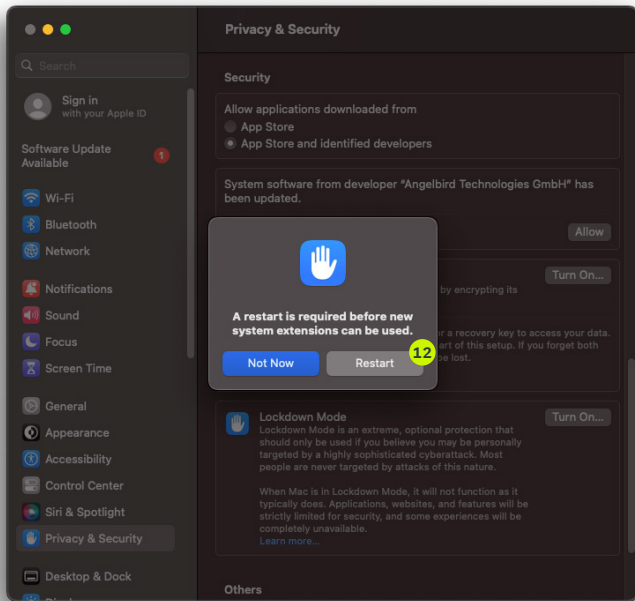


- 6 In the privacy & security preferences, make sure the developer is “Angelbird Technologies GmbH”. Click 11 “Allow”, and enter your password as needed.

It may also show a more generic message that reads “some system software was blocked from loading”. In this case, after clicking allow, a list will appear and software from each developer can be allowed individually.



- 7 The system will need to be restarted again, so click **12** "Restart".



- 8 Once the system has restarted, start the app again and follow the on-screen instructions. Now the app should tell you to plug in the card reader and card.

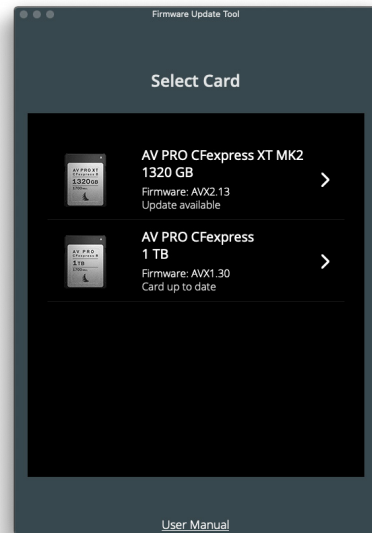
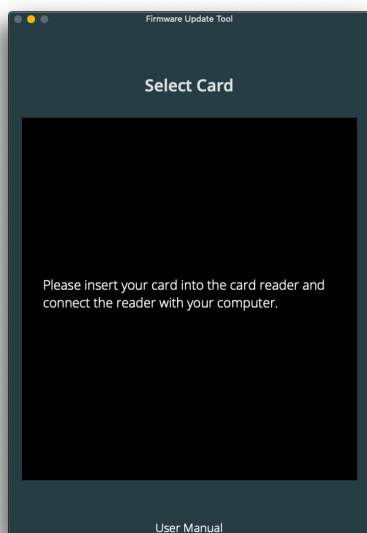
Plug the CFexpress card reader with the CFexpress card already inserted into the computer.

Once a CFexpress card is detected, the tool shows if an update is possible. To continue, select the card you want to update.

Note:

When the tool has detected a card, simply follow the on-screen instructions to complete the firmware update.

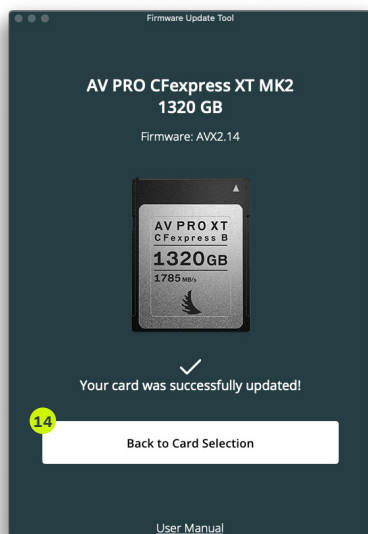
While the firmware is being updated, the card will be unsafely ejected.



- 9 Click **13** "Update" to proceed with the firmware update.



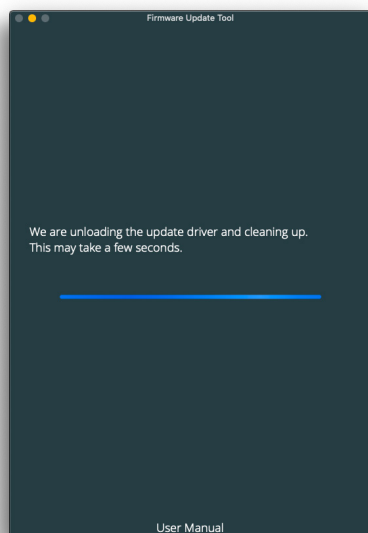
- 10** If the update was successful, you see the screen as below. Click **14** “Back to Card Selection” to go back to the list of cards.



- 11** Close the app after your card was updated. Now the firmware update driver and helper tool are uninstalled. The firmware update tool will close automatically.

Note:

While unloading the driver, the connected card will be unsafely ejected.

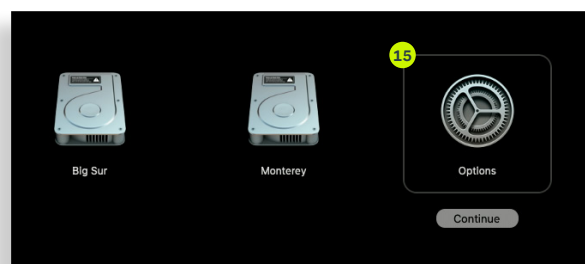


- 12** The Security settings can now be reset to their previous values. This step is only needed for Macs with Apple Silicon.

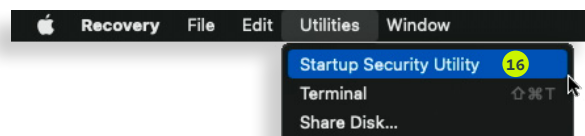
When you have any other system extension installed which requires more permissive security settings, you should skip restoring the security settings as otherwise they will stop working.

For more details, see the Apple support page: [click here](#)

- 12.1** First shut down your computer. Once turned off, press and keep pressed the power button until the boot menu is loaded.
- 12.2** In the boot menu, click **15** “Options” to load the recoveryOS.



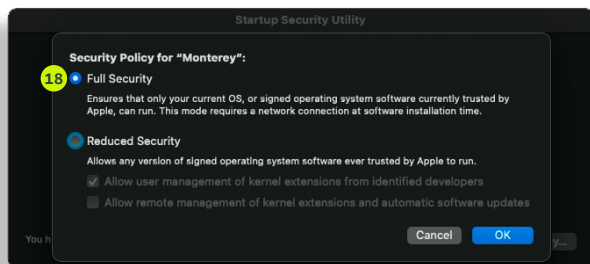
- 12.3** Once the recoveryOS has loaded, open the **16** “Startup Security Utility” from the utilities menu.



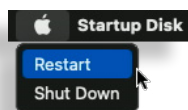
- 12.4** Next, select the startup disk you wish to update and click **17** “Security Policy...”. Most likely, there is only one Option.



12.5 18 Change the setting to “Full Security” and click “OK”.



12.6 Restart the computer to macOS using the Apple menu.



Big Sur and Monterey instructions

The firmware tool guides you through the steps required to check for and install firmware updates for your Angelbird media. The supported types of media are listed on page 1.

Warning

Installing the firmware update will destroy all data on the drive. Please ensure that you have securely backed up your files.

THE PROCESS IS AS FOLLOWS

Ensure the card reader or SSD2GO is disconnected from the computer.

Start the app and let it load the update driver.

Set the computer security policy to allow driver installation (only on Macs with Apple Silicon).

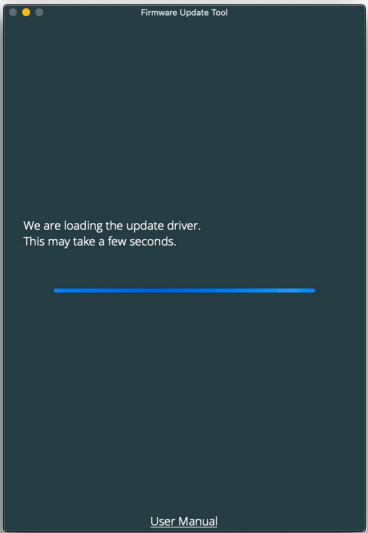
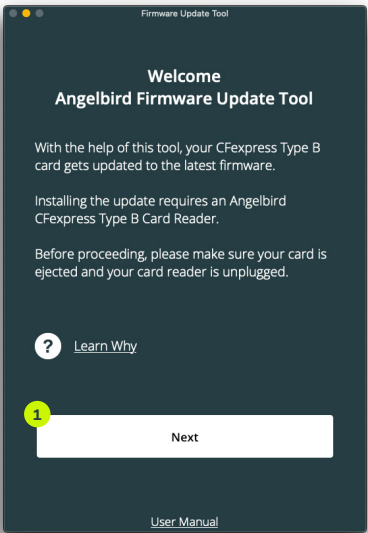
Approve the update driver.

Plug in the Angelbird or RED CFexpress card reader with the CFexpress card inside, or the SSD2GO.

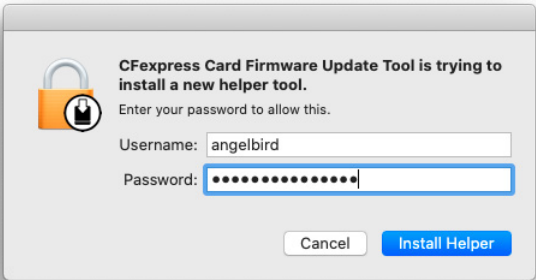
Update the firmware.

- 1 Open the app and click **1** “Next”. The app will try to install a helper app and load the update driver.

Note:
The helper app and update driver will be automatically uninstalled once the tool closes.

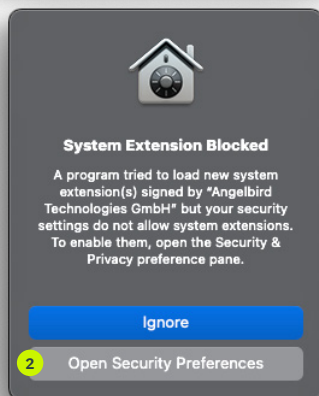
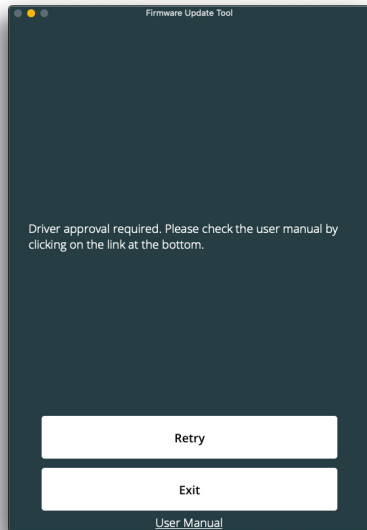


- 2 The entire process requires authentication several times. Enter your computer user name and password when, and if, prompted.



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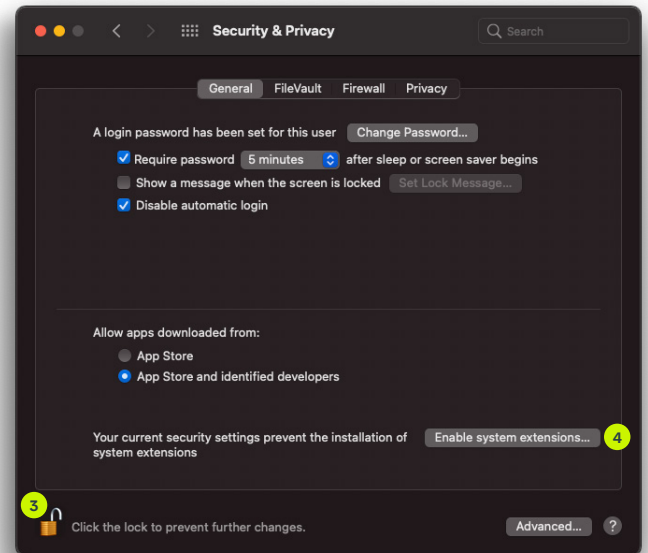
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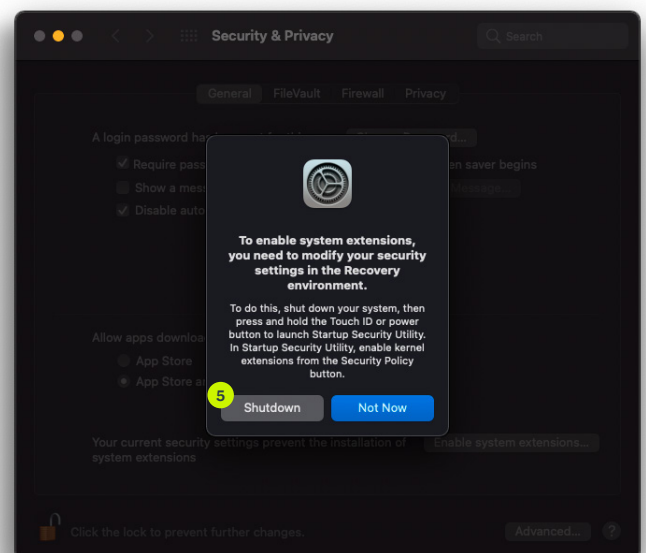
- 4.1 In the Security Preferences, click the 3 unlock icon, and then click 4 "Enable System Extensions..."

Note:

Is the text different? Then system extensions are already enabled. In this case, continue with step 5.



- 4.2 The system will ask you to shut down in order to change the security settings in the recovery environment. Click 5 "Shutdown".



4.3 Reboot your Mac with Apple Silicon in recovery mode by clicking “Shut Down...” via the Apple menu. Don't worry, the system will automatically reboot into the recovery environment. If nothing happens, hold down the power button of your mac until it is booted in recovery mode.

Click 6 “Security Policy...” to continue.



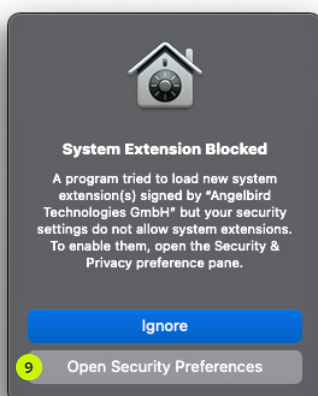
4.4 Set the security level to 7 “Reduced Security” and 8 allow the loading of third-party texts.



4.5 Exit recovery mode by rebooting the computer back to macOS. Restart your computer via the apple menu.

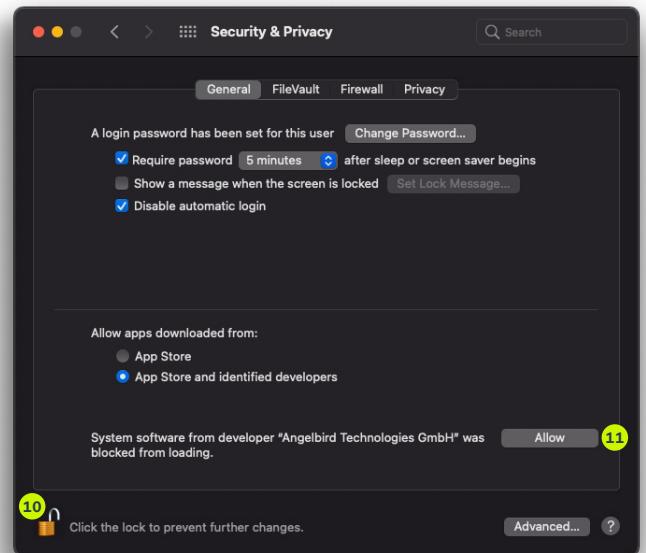
5 Now that the security settings have been updated, start the app again, and follow the on-screen instructions. This time the update driver needs to be approved.

A “System Extension Blocked” popup should appear. Click the button for 9 “Open Security Settings”. If no popup appears, open the system preferences app, and then open the security & privacy preferences.

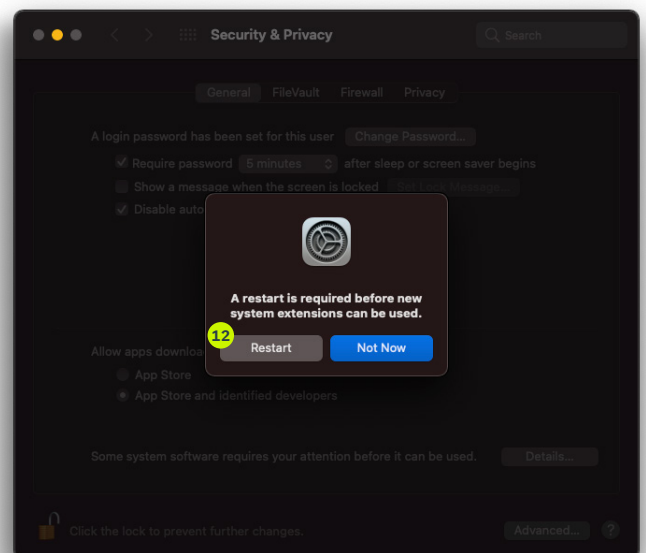


6 In the security & privacy preferences, make sure the developer is “Angelbird Technologies GmbH”. Click the 10 unlock icon, and then click 11 “Allow”.

It may also show a more generic message that reads “some system software was blocked from loading”. In this case, after clicking allow, a list will appear and the software from each developer can be allowed individually.



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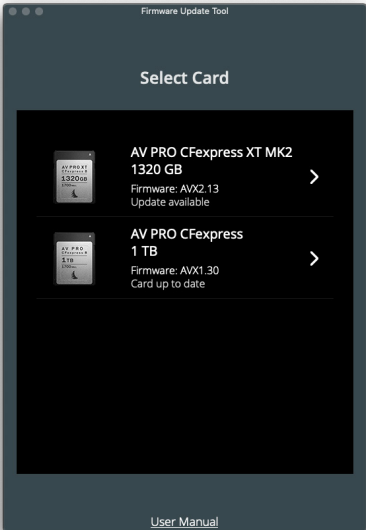
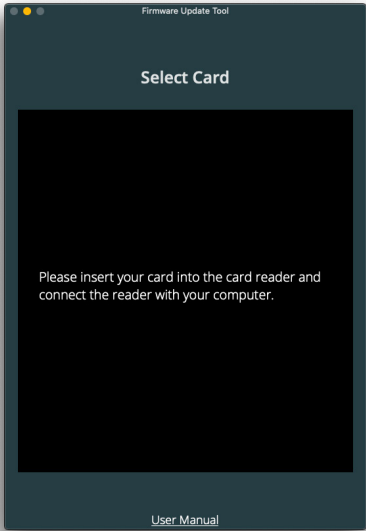


- 8 Once the system has restarted, start the app again and follow the on-screen instructions. Now the app should tell you to plug in the card reader and card.

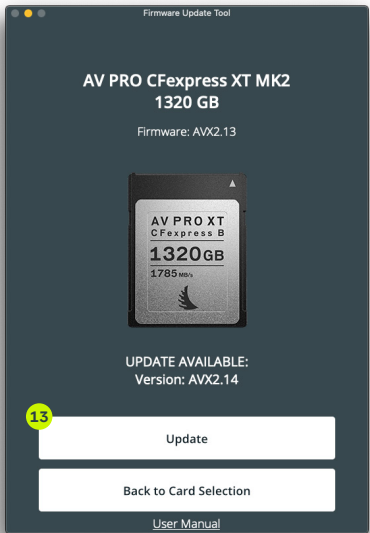
Plug the CFexpress card reader with the CFexpress card already inserted into the computer.

Once a CFexpress card is detected, the tool shows if an update is possible. To continue, select the card you want to update.

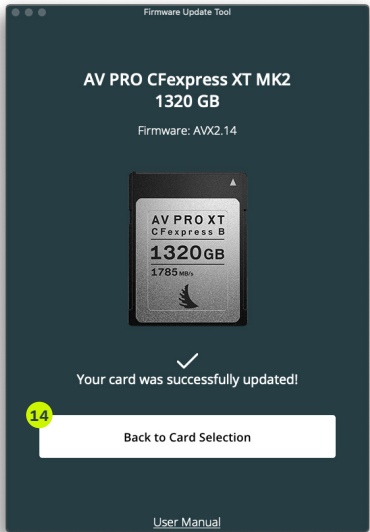
Note:
When the tool has detected a card, simply follow the on-screen instructions to complete the firmware update.
While the firmware is being updated, the card will be unsafely ejected.



- 9 Click **13** "Update" to proceed with the firmware update.



- 10 If the update was successful, you see the screen as below. Click **14** "Back to Card Selection" to go back to the list of cards.



- 11** Close the app after your card was updated. Now the firmware update driver and helper tool are uninstalled. The firmware update tool will close automatically.

Note:

While unloading the driver, the connected card will be unsafely ejected.

